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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 25, 1957
DATE

REF : Mytel 228 from Dhahran

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SUBJECT: Audience with King Saud

Transmitted as an enclosure to this despatch is a memorandum-record of my audience with His Majesty King Saud in Dammam on October 24, 1957.

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George Wadsworth
American Ambassador

Enclosures:

1. Audience with King Saud in Dammam, October 24, 1957.
2. Joint Saudi-Turkish Communique

Department please pass to Jidda

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AUDIENCE WITH HIS MAJESTY KING SAUD

Dammam, Saudi Arabia
October 24, 1957

Participants: His Majesty King Saud

Ambassador Wadsworth
Joseph Sweeney, Counselor
William A. Stoltzfus, Jr., Recorder
Mohamed Massoud, Interpreter

Subjects:

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1) His Majesty's Recent Activities

After compliments, during which the Ambassador took occasion to present his new Counselor of Embassy, Mr. Sweeney.

AMB: My Government wanted me especially to express its thanks and appreciation for Your Majesty's moderating influence in the difficult situation in which the Middle East finds itself today, and for what Your Majesty is doing. As always, I have come to ask Your Majesty's counsel.

HM: Have you seen the Turkish Minister yet?

AMB: No, but I wish to very much. We were old friends in Beirut and Ankara.

HM: He is living close by, and you may wish to drop in on him. He is a very good, wise and cultured man.

AMB: Yes, he is like his father-in-law, Tewfiq Rushdi, who was a very wise adviser.

There are so many things, Your Majesty, to talk about after your visits to Germany, Damascus and Beirut. My Government wishes to thank Your Majesty for the messages you sent from Damascus and Beirut, which have been received in Washington. I would like also to thank you for the very gracious reception Your Majesty gave to the Consul General yesterday. I would like now to place myself at Your Majesty's disposal for any word you may wish to send my Government through me.

AMB: (cont.) There are of course two immediate problems--those of Syria and the UN debate now going on on its complaint against Turkey, and the meeting at the Summit between President Eisenhower and Mr. Macmillan at which this and other problems are being discussed.

AMB:

HM:

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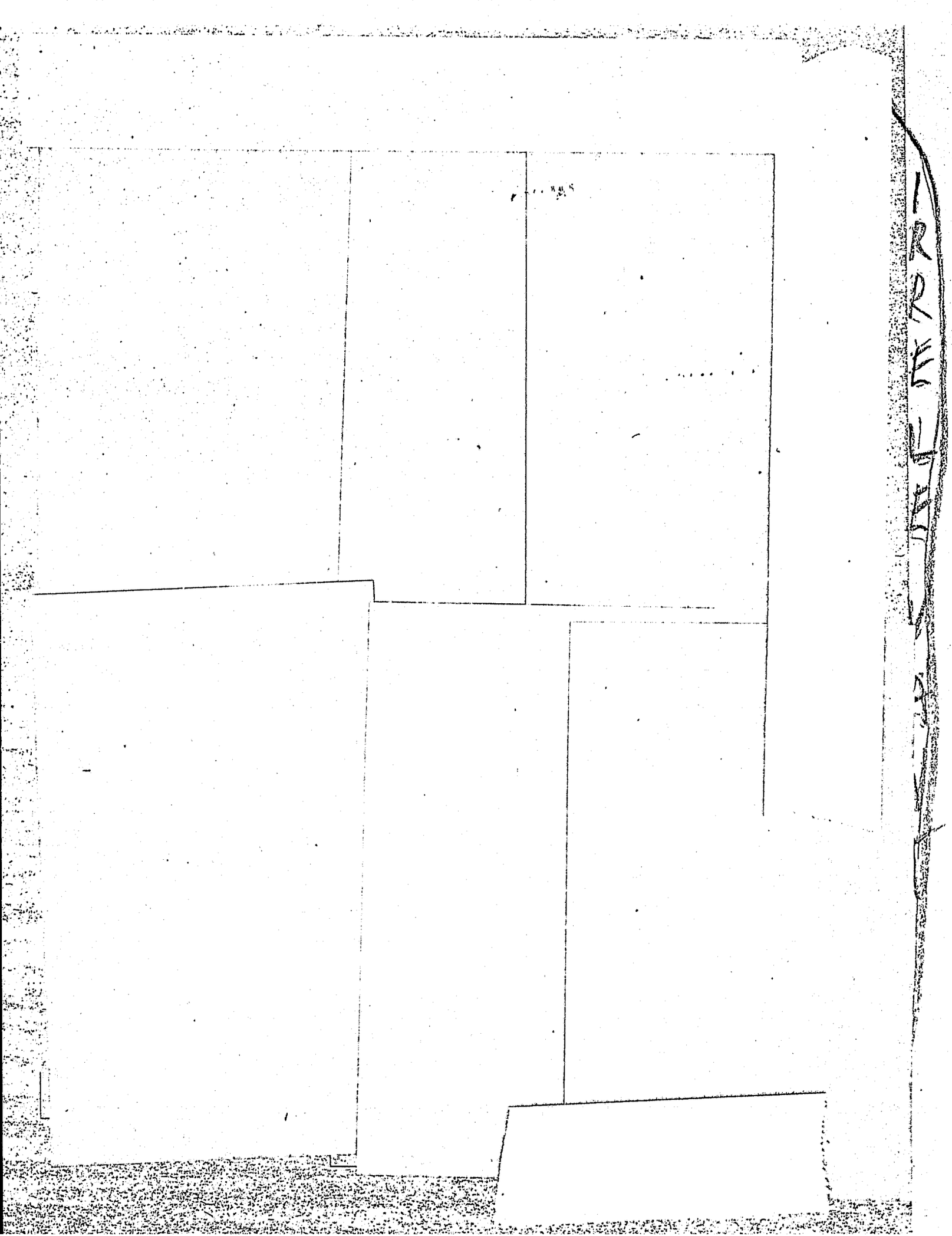

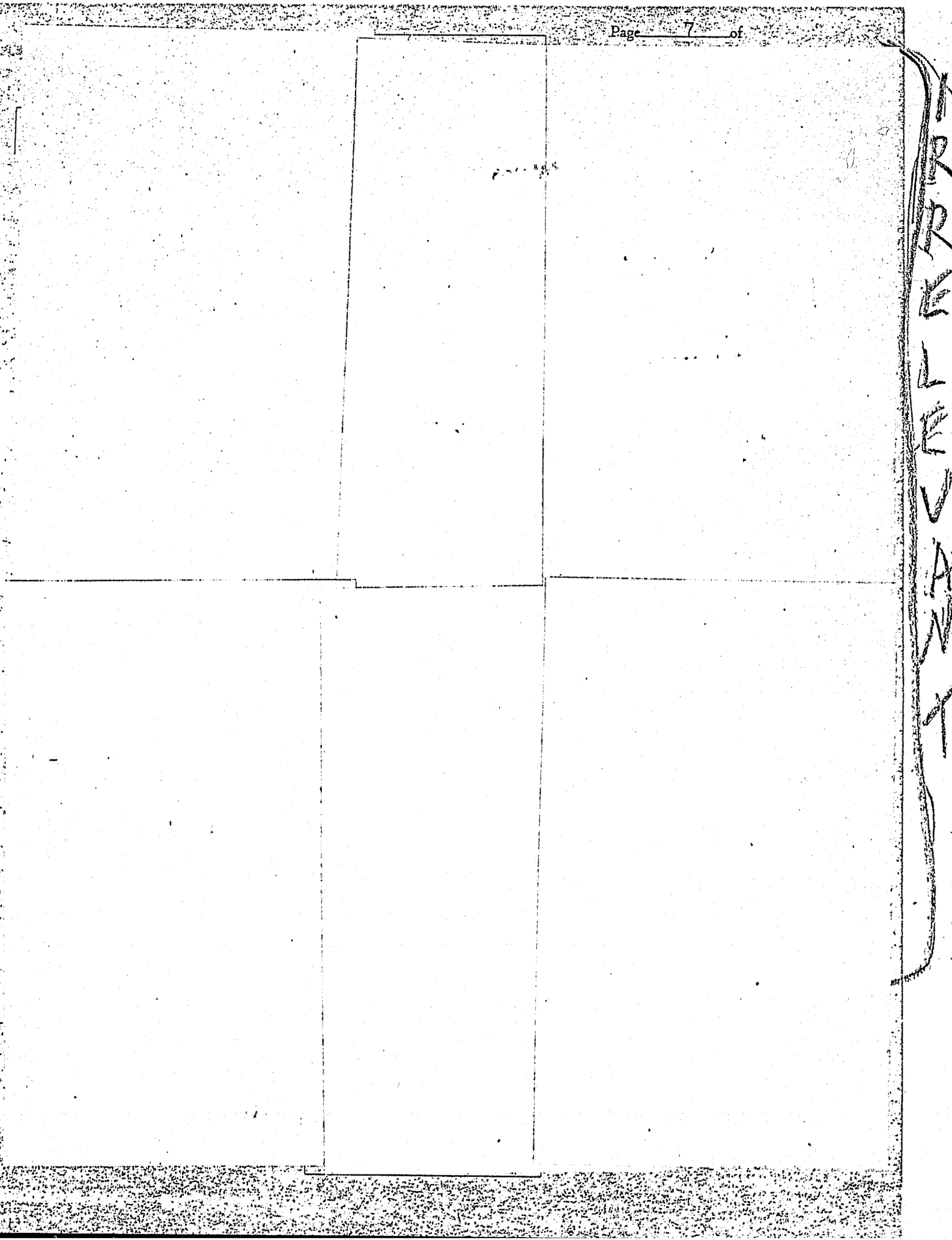

AMB: (cont.) Your Majesty raised at my last audience, and I understand that Shaikh Mohamed is to be in Jidda next week.

HM: Please do whenever you wish.

AMB: I hope Your Majesty has been satisfied with the report Ambassador al-Khayyal will have sent of Mr. Dulles' comment on this question at their conversation two days ago. We have now our new appropriations for economic aid and are giving the matter most careful consideration.

HM: I believe al-Khayyal's report of his meeting with Mr. Dulles, which is undoubtedly a long one, will come by despatch. I have not received it yet.

10) Customs Privileges

(Note: The formal audience ended at this point. After adieus had been said, the Ambassador asked if he might also, with His Majesty's "blessing," reopen with Mohamed Surur the question of customs privileges, long a troubling issue regarding which he had received new instructions from Washington.

His Majesty retained the Ambassador for a brief discussion of the question. "Is your Government," he asked, "interested in exemption from payment of duties or from inspection?"

The Ambassador answered in substance: "From both, where appropriate, Your Majesty; and I can assure you I would not tolerate any abuse by any member of my staff. My request is, however, that, pending settlement of this matter, the published Saudi customs regulations be applied as in the past."

After further brief discussion, His Majesty undertook to telegraph Shaikh Mohamed his desire that the question be "discussed sympathetically with the Ambassador and if possible settled to mutual satisfaction.")

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